

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is submitted to more clearly point out the claimed invention and to highlight the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art.

The lottery ticket of claim 1 now requires a jig-saw puzzle piece identification system which is best shown in Figure 2 of the application in which the puzzle pieces are labeled with indicia and identified by numeral 25. As a result of this identification system, the first jig-saw type puzzle pieces appearing in the first play area can be matched with second jig-saw type puzzle pieces of the same shape in the second play area. Thus, there is no need and the present invention does not call for physically placing matching jig-saw type puzzle pieces upon each other in order to demonstrate a match.

New claims 14-16 have been added to the application to address particular embodiments of the invention as shown in the drawing figures, especially Figures 1 and 2. Claim 14 provides that there are a plurality of second play regions shown in Figure 2 by the numeral 26 with at least two of the second play regions having different patterns and being comprised of different jig-saw type puzzle pieces. In the embodiment shown in Figure 2 there are three play regions each of which has a

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different configuration and thus the puzzle pieces are of a different shape. Particular embodiments of the claimed identification means can also be found in Figure 2 in which numbers and letters (e.g. 1A) are used as the means of identification. It is therefore submitted that new claims 14-16 are fully supported in the application as filed and entry thereof is deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

Referring to the Office Action, claims 1-13 stand rejected as obvious over Hopkins (U.S. Patent No. 4,756,533) and Bachman (U.S. Patent No. 4,778,153). Hopkins is stated to teach a lottery ticket with a first play area having jig-saw type puzzle pieces and a second play area having at least one play region. The Office Action states that Hopkins further teaches that the game is executed by removing puzzle pieces which when matched with the first play area wins a prize. Hopkins is admittedly lacking in a disclosure of a jig-saw type puzzle piece game with a removable scratch-off layer. Bachman is stated to teach a scratch-off layer. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references. The rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed a lottery ticket of the scratch-off variety commonly sold in the United States by State sponsored Lotteries. In accordance with the present invention, there are two play areas appearing on the same ticket. As shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the present application, there is provided a first play area comprising a plurality of first jig-saw type puzzle pieces. The first play area is covered by a removable scratch-off layer.

There is also provided a second play area comprising at least one second play region. As shown in Figure 2, three such regions are shown, one in the form of a triangle, one in the form of a circle and one in the form of a square. Each of the second play regions is comprised of a plurality of jig-saw type puzzle pieces which may be the same as one or more of the first jig-saw type puzzle pieces located in the first play area.

As previously indicated, there is provided an identification system enabling the player to match first jig-saw type puzzle pieces in the first play area with those in the second play area without having to remove the pieces and place them in superimposed relationship. Thus, the game provided on the present lottery ticket employs scratch-off layers and identification systems to enable the player to play a jig-saw type puzzle game without having to physically lift and move puzzle pieces from one play area to another.

Hopkins (U.S. Patent No. 4,756,533) is the most relevant art cited in the Office Action in that it discloses a jig-saw puzzle promotional lottery game. However, this game has several different features than that of the present invention. First, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the reference, there is provided a game board 10 and a separate game card 18. Thus, the promotional game of the reference is not played on a single lottery ticket as required in the present invention but must be played by removing puzzle pieces from the game card and physically placing them in superimposed relationship onto the game board. While this type of game does

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provide for matching of puzzle pieces, the present invention provides a distinct advantage over the Hopkins reference. There is no chance to lose a puzzle piece from the game card to the game board. In the present invention, all of the requirements for playing the game and making the required matches are set forth on a single ticket and are accessed through removal of the scratch-off layer over the first play area and the matching of puzzle pieces from the first play area with the second play area through the identification means as required in the present claims.

In addition, each of the puzzle boards 12 appearing on the game board of the references have identically shaped patterns (column 2, lines 42-44). This is not a requirement of the present invention and attention is directed to new claims 14 and 15 in which the second play area is comprised of at least some play regions which are not the same as others and therefore the puzzle pieces are different from one play region to another.

Attention is directed to column 2, beginning at line 56 of the reference wherein it is stated that the contestants in the process of solving the multiple puzzles are aided by the fact that the puzzle pieces 16 are backed with a self-adhesive and the game cards 18 and the game boards 10 are provided with a release coating. The adhesive and coating maybe of any of the forms known which permit repeated application and removal of an element to a surface. This is further evidence that removal of the game pieces from the game card must be made in order to play the game. This is a structural requirement of the reference which has been eliminated in the present invention.

Furthermore, the employment of adhesives and additional coatings to accommodate lifting and moving puzzle pieces from one area to another adds to the cost of producing the product. In the present invention, adhesives and supporting systems are not employed because there is no movement of the game piece from one play area to another. It is therefore submitted that the present invention is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over Hopkins (U.S. Patent No. 4,756,533).

Bachman (U.S. Patent No. 4,778,153) discloses another system in which adhesives are employed and game pieces are moved from one play area to another. In this regard, reference is made to Figures 24-28 showing a cover panel 116 which is folded over onto a hidden panel 118 to provide the game ticket as it appears in Figures 26 and 27. As indicated beginning at column 9, line 29, the user tears away the removable portion 129 (see Figure 26) to provide a puzzle assembly area coated with release coat 30 through which the indicia E are visible. Then the removable portions 126 are removed while retaining their adhesive backing and placed within the depression 130. Thus, the puzzle pieces 126 are lifted up and using an adhesive backing are placed into another and separate play area 130. Thus, Hopkins and Bachman are similar in that in order to play the game, pieces must be removed from one play area and then placed into another play area in order to determine if there is a match or to complete a puzzle. In contradistinction, the present invention requires no lifting and movement of game pieces. The game pieces in the first play area are covered by a scratch-off layer and identified by certain means which enable a match

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to be determined with the same piece as it appears in a second play area. There is no movement of game pieces from one play area to another and therefore the structure of the lottery ticket of the present invention is materially different than both of the cited references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims of the application including amended claim 1 and new claims 14-16 are in condition for allowance and early passage to issue is therefore deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this matter. However, if any fee is due, it should be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0510.

Respectfully submitted,



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